(d) whether Government would also take congnizance of the report of the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) on the futility of continuing the MIO operations by the NDDB as it has failed to prove as an effective instrument of market intervention ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NDDB was appointed as the Market Intervention Agency under the Integrated Policy on Edible Oils/Oilseeds in April, 1989 for a period of five years. The Empowered Committee on Oilseeds Policy (ECOP) which oversees the MIO has not recommended foreclosure of MIO.

(c) and (d) ECOP appreciated the role of NDDB in stabilising the edible oil prices through MIO. However, ECOP constituted a four-member Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P.V. Desai, Chairman, Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) with the representatives each from Ministry of Finance, Planning Commission and Deptt. of Agri. and Coopn. (Technology Mission on Oilseeds) to examine (i) whether the MIO was carried out in accordance with the prescribed terms and conditions; (ii) whether the objectives of the MIO have been fulfilled and (iii) determination of the component of the MIO losses and the amount to be reimbursed by the Government on account of MIO losses during 1991-92 in accordance with the terms and conditions of MIO. There are differences of views among members of the Committee. The report of the Committee was considered by ECOP. The reimbursement of losses to NDDB for the year 1991-92 is under consideration.

शहतूत की खेती

1280. **श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत में किन-किन स्थानों में शहतूत की खेती की जाती है और इसके विकास के लिए सरकार ने क्या-क्या उपाय किए हैं;

(ख) क्या शहतूत के उत्पादकों को केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड द्वारा इस प्रयोजन के लिए कोई सहायता दी जाती है, और यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) क्या शहतूत की खेती के लिए भूमि की उपयुक्तता की जांच करने के लिए कोई सर्वेक्षण कराया गया है ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरविंद नेताम) : (क) से (ग) शहतूत की खेती मुख्य रूप से कर्नाटक, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, पश्चिमी बंगाल और जम्मू व कश्मीर तक सीमित है। इन राज्यों में 1989-90 से विश्व बैंक/स्विस सहायता प्राप्त राष्ट्रीय रेशम कीट पालन परियोजना चलाई जा रही है। इस परियोजना का निरूपण करते समय केन्द्रीय रेशम बोर्ड ने कई इलाकों में शहतूत की खेती की उपयुक्तता का मूल्यांकन किया है और उसके आधार पर असम, बिहार, गुजरात, हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, केरल, महाराष्ट्र, मध्य प्रदेश, उड़ीसा, पंजाब, राजस्थान और उत्तर प्रदेश नामक राज्यों में एक प्रायोगिक परियोजना चलाई जा रही है।

इसके अलावा, रेशम बोर्ड रेशम कीट पालन को बढ़ावा देने तथा अनुसंधान और विकास को बढ़ाने, विस्तार, प्रशिक्षण और

बुनियादी ढांचे की सहायता के लिये निम्नलिखित दो योजनाएं भी चला रहा है :—

(1) राज्यों को राज सहायता प्राप्त दरों पर (50:50 के आधार पर) शहतूत की कलमों की सप्लाई ।

(2) किसान नर्सरी कार्यक्रमों के अन्तर्गत राजसहायता प्राप्त दरों (50:50 के आधार पर) किसानों को शहतूत की पौध की सप्लाई ।

Permission to Multinational Companies to enter Agriculture Sector

1281. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to permit the multinational companies to enter agriculture sector; if so, the details of the proposal;

(b) the specific sectors of agriculture where these will be permitted to enter; and

(c) what impact such a move will have on the industry in general and agro-based industries in particular ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Since 1986 MRTP/FERA companies have been permitted to enter in the area of certified high yielding seeds. In the New Industrial Policy, 1991 seed was considered a high priority industry for automatic approval of venture with 51% foreign equity.

(c) It is envisaged that this will improve the availability of raw material for agro-based industry and ultimately have a favourable impact on industrial development in general.

Agricultural Universities in the Country

1282. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Agricultural Universities, Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges, State-wise in the country;

(b) whether these institutes are adequate;

(c) if not, whether Government propose to start private Agricultural and Veterinary Colleges by giving permission to Charitable Trusts or Institutes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Sir, A statement is enclosed. (see below)

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d) Does not arise